

INSIDE

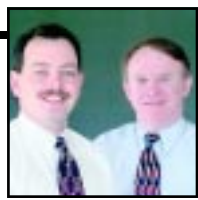
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THURSDAY
JANUARY 31, 2002

LIFESTYLES

CAPITOL HILL
ONLINEDerek Rowan
& Dave Ottalini
DoubleClickGenealogist
looking for
photo solutions

Question: *I have PhotoDeluxe 1.1, which came with my Umax Astra 1220S scanner and a G3 Mac, OS9. I do not understand how to use PhotoDeluxe — it did not include a manual — so what I have done has been trial and error. It also is very SLOW.*

I am a genealogist, so I want to scan printed newspaper articles, download and modify/enhance the legibility of early land grants and original Census pages, etc. I also would like to do some work on old photos and newer 35mm color photos, placing them in my database and eventually on family trees, etc.

I have read some reviews on Adobe's Photoshop Elements that are somewhat contradictory. Some imply that it is easier and more instructive than PhotoDeluxe and others say it's a step beyond PhotoDeluxe.

It also seems to concentrate on photos. I don't know how helpful it would be in enhancing and editing borders of old deeds, etc., or newspaper obituaries.

There is a 30-day free demo that I downloaded, but apparently something went wrong with the download. It doesn't open, and there is a message saying the whole version didn't convey. So I was not able to install it.

During this search, I noticed that there is a 2.0 version of PhotoDeluxe, but didn't see any description of it. I thought the upgrade may be better for me, since I am somewhat familiar with it.

If there were some instructions...

Please advise me in simple terms how to improve the quality of my work on old papers and photos, as well as newer color photos. I do not want to spend a lot of time guessing and learning something time-consuming and complicated.

Thanks. I really enjoy your column. — Rita

Dave: Rita, the answers to the questions you are asking could fill up any number of books.

Luckily, you only get a few paragraphs from Derek and me, so let's make them worth your time.

You are involved in a wonderful hobby that helps bring a family's history to life. A computer with Internet access can be a great tool in helping you do a lot of the work you need to do.

I've used both PhotoDeluxe and Photoshop Elements. My suggestion would be to spend the money and buy Elements. It is a great program that you should be able to start using right out of the box. The program automates many of the chores you would have to do in higher-end products (such as Photoshop). But it also gives you a lot of control if you want.

It allows direct scans as well. Plus, it comes with a manual — which I have yet to open!

That said, if you want to stick with PhotoDeluxe, head your browser over to www.activeshare.com/US/products/photodeluxe/tips/index.html and you'll have a wealth of information about the program and how to use it.

Although Adobe no longer really supports the Macintosh version, you can still buy it — it's \$39 for the upgrade to 2.0.

As a PhotoDeluxe owner, you can upgrade to Elements for \$69. If you don't want to do that, I would strongly suggest you get the 2.0 version, as it has a number of enhancements.

For more information go to www.adobe.com:80/store/products/photodeluxe20.html. For more information on Photoshop Elements, head your browser to: photoshopementssupport.adobe.com.

These programs can help enhance photos and other

scans or papers, etc. If you are looking to just grab the text from those newspapers, however, you'll also need to find an optical character recognition program that can do that. For more information on that (Mac or PC) take a look at desktoppub.about.com/library/weekly/aa040699.htm.

In reading over your comments, one of the things that hit me is your need to really learn how to use your scanner and programs such as PhotoDeluxe or Elements. As a Washington Apple Pi member, you also know that the club offers a number of classes that can help you become more comfortable with your hardware and software so you can do what you want quickly and easily. PC users have similar options with the Capital PC Users Group (and other local user groups).

One last comment. You didn't mention if you were using one, but there are a number of genealogy programs out there for Mac and PC users that may actually do a better job of accomplishing what you need in one complete package. Apple's software guide is a great place to check what's available at guide.apple.com. For links to genealogy sites, try genealogy.about.com/

By the way, Rita, Derek has done extensive genealogical research on his family and, although he is rather shy in talking about it, he can trace his ancestry back to Eniac, Babbage and even some Greek guy who used an abacus on occasion.

Derek: Eniac? Let's get this straight. While I've been in the computer business since 1982, I am in no way, shape or form older than you, Dave!

Anyway, Rita, I think you are unfortunately in for a tough time. Your desire to edit these old photos, add graphics, scan words and the like are all items that require time to learn.

There are no magic polls to take to learn this stuff easily. Dave's suggestion about getting with a user group is a great idea. You probably won't find a training program that would teach you what you want to know. You could learn it all on your own, but that would take even more time.

As great as computers are, sometimes they require lots of time on your part to get the results you want. Working with photo imaging and editing is one of those things. Let us know how it turns out.

Question: *I have a Micro-soft ME operating system. Please send me step-by-step instructions for setting up additional files and folders to classify my e-mail messages. I have Outlook Express. — Robert*

Dave: Robert, the instructions are similar for both Mac and PC users of Outlook Express — and really quite simple.

Open up OE and take a look at the menu bar across the top. To the left is an icon that says "new" and a triangle pointing down. Mac folks would just click and hold it. PC folks right click and hold. A new window opens that gives you a number of choices to do something new. At the bottom you'll see two choices — "Folder" and "Subfolder." If you want to make a new folder, scroll down and highlight that selection before unclicking. A new folder appears under the Folders list on the left of the program. Type in the new name and you're set.

If you want to create a new subfolder, simply highlight the folder you want to have a subfolder in, go to New and scroll down to "Subfolder." OE will place a new subfolder right where you want it. Rename and you're off.

Please see **CLICK, C2**

Rep. Michael Honda's congressional Web site was one of 15 awarded the "Gold Mouse Award" from the Congressional Management Foundation and George Washington University for its content.

Study finds many congressional Web sites lacking

By D. IAN HOPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When congressional Web sites are good, they're really good. But most aren't, says a non-profit group that rated more than 600 of them.

The study, by the Congressional Management Foundation, found that people want information and they want it fast — without the flashy graphics and fawning tributes to the boss that are standard fare on most lawmakers' Internet sites.

Researchers at the foundation, which provides management services to House and Senate offices, and George Washington University rated 605 congressional Web sites, including those for all 535 members and for congressional committees and leadership offices.

Congress, as a whole, earned a C-minus.

Fifteen sites received a "Gold Mouse Award," the foundation's top honor.

Overall, Senate Web sites did better than House sites — senators have bigger budgets and spend more time in Congress, after all.

Republicans did better in the House and Democrats outperformed in the Senate, mirroring the party majorities in each chamber.

The Republican Conference and Democratic Caucus sites in the House got high marks as well.

The researchers, whose work was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, last reviewed con-

And the winners are...

The 15 congressional Web sites that received a "Gold Mouse Award" from the Congressional Management Foundation and George Washington University:

- Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M.: bingaman.senate.gov
 - Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif.: boxer.senate.gov
 - Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas: hutchison.senate.gov
 - Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.: leahy.senate.gov
 - Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas: kaygranger.house.gov
 - Rep. Michael Honda, D-Calif.: www.house.gov/honda
 - Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind.: www.house.gov/pence
 - Rep. Richard Pombo, R-Calif.: www.house.gov/pombo
 - Senate Budget Committee, Majority: www.senate.gov/budget/democratic/
 - House Energy and Commerce Committee, Majority: energycommerce.house.gov
 - House Energy and Commerce Committee, Minority: www.house.gov/commerce/democrats/
 - House Rules Committee, Majority: www.house.gov/rules
 - Speaker of the House: www.speaker.gov
 - House Majority Whip: majoritywhip.house.gov/
 - House Republican Conference: www.gop.gov
- THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

gressional Web sites three years ago. Rick Shapiro, the foundation's executive director, said there's been progress, but not enough.

"The blueprint is there," he said. "The bad news is, most of the rest of the Congress hasn't figured out that some of their colleagues have developed that blueprint."

"They're really missing the boat."

Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., earned a Gold Mouse for his site, to which he provides daily audio clips. His appearances on the House floor are videotaped and

posted within an hour.

Pence, who has a radio-TV background, said one of his ambitions when he arrived in Congress was to advise fellow Republicans about communications.

"I expressed to my team very early on that I wanted to set the pace in Internet technologies and accessibility and availability of information," he said.

Video clips and other novelties aren't really necessary, Shapiro said, but knowing your audience is key.

"People aren't spending time doing research on the Web to look for fun graphics to play with," he

said. "They're coming because they have needs and they want specific information."

Some sites convey that information through targeted newsletters; for example, people interested in the environment get an e-mail every time their legislator speaks on the subject. Citizens also like background information about how Congress works and updates on the issues.

California Democratic Rep. Mike Honda's site — another Gold Mouse winner — offers 14 issue-oriented newsletters and was rated "crisp, inviting and very usable" by researchers. Honda's district includes Silicon Valley, so the Internet comes naturally.

"So many of our folks in the Valley communicate that way," Honda said.

Soon, he said, other lawmakers may feel pressure to make their Internet sites a priority.

"They need to have that pressure from their constituents, saying, 'We can't communicate with you efficiently,'" Honda said. "They'll catch up, they'll get it. Nobody likes to get low grades."

Some congressional Web sites lose points for datedness. While the best sites post news releases and developments almost immediately, others don't even reflect the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Outside consultants make some sites more user-friendly, but most are still updated on the cheap. Too many times, Shapiro said, the job is left to the "techie in the office," who uses the site as a personal playground while providing little helpful information.

COMPUTER CENTRAL

Delete Net files to keep system clean

By JAMES DERK
Scripps Howard

More questions are piling up: **Question:** *I have several thousand files in my Temporary Internet Files folder. Should I delete these files, and, if so, how do I do it?*

Answer: Absolutely. I try to delete mine about once a week or so. Many people don't realize that when you visit a Web page, the content from that page (the text and photos) actually are downloaded to your computer's hard drive. That's why when you hit the "BACK" button the old page just appears and does not have to be downloaded again.

To delete all of those files, open Internet Explorer. Hit TOOLS (across the top) then Internet Options. There is a box that opens up that says Temporary Internet Files. Depending on which version you have, you hit the box that says Delete Files. Later versions also allow you to delete your Web-site "cookies" here. I do that once a week, too.

Question: *I have a Gateway PC running windows 98. The clock will randomly "lose" an hour, in exact increments of one hour. If I reset it and "apply" the change, it will be fine for about a day, and then do the same thing all over again.*

I have never seen it happen, I simply no-

tice that the time is incorrect again. If I don't reset it, it will still lose additional hours. Do you have any idea what is causing this to happen?

Answer: Likely you have Norton Anti-Virus installed. This was a bug in Norton 2000 and Windows 98. Run "Live Update" on Norton and make sure you are up-to-date. If you cannot run Live Update, go to www.symantec.com and visit the support section. Search for "losing time" in the support database and a file there will correct the issue. If you don't have Norton installed, head to Microsoft's Support "Knowledge Base" and read article "Q189706."

Question: *I have been an avid reader for a long time. I recently loaded Windows XP and like it very well. My problem is when I boot, up I get the message, "Device or application Disabled 'CD Recording' will cause Windows to become unstable. Windows has prevented these Drivers from Loading." When I go to remove the program Adaptec Direct CD Reader it responds "Attempt to delete one or more files has failed Error code 0X00000002." You mentioned you had a similar problem with Roxio Easy CD Creator, and I think it is related to Roxio. Do you have a solution?*

Answer: Yes. The version of CD Creator you have is incompatible with XP. It was

supposed to be uninstalled before you upgraded, but now that you are this far, your answer is to upgrade to version 5.x from Roxio's Web site or quit using Roxio.

Question: *I am not a computer expert and have a question for you: If I have McAfee firewall installed, do I also need an Anti-virus program? If so, can you mix and match programs such as Norton and McAfee firewall? Also, how do you tell if someone has tried to hack into your computer? We have cable Internet access.*

Answer: Yes, you need an anti-virus program, and yes, you can mix and match, however often you save money by combining (Norton's firewall comes with anti-virus, etc.). Most programs will notify you with an on-screen warning if you want to know every time someone tries to wiggle their way in. You can test your firewall by going to www.grc.com and running "Shields Up."

Weekly Web wonder

Waste hours and learn physics too. Check out www.bigidea.com/penguins/kids/k--spacedpenguin.htm.

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